

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 WELLIN 03520 01 OF 02 110536Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OIC-02
/083 W

-----085624 110601Z /12

P 110459Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3817
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 WELLINGTON 03520

EO 11652:N/A
TAGS: PLAB, ILO, NZ
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH GNZ FOREIGN MINISTER CONCERNING
THE ILO

REF: (A) STATE 169505 (B) STATE 168851

1. SUMMARY: AT THE REQUEST OF FOREIGN MINISTER TALBOYS,
I CALLED ON HIM AUGUST 10 TO DISCUSS THE IMPENDING
DECISION ON USG MEMBERSHIP IN THE ILO. AS EXPECTED AND
APPARENTLY AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE IMEC PRESENTATION OF
JULY 27 IN GENEVA, TALBOYS EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN FOR THE
POSSIBILITY OF A U. S. WITHDRAWAL AND, BASED PRIMARILY ON
THE IMPACT WITHDRAWAL MIGHT HAVE ON OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS, ASKED THAT I PASS ALONG NEW ZEALAND'S PLEA
THAT THE USG REMAIN IN THE ILO. I RESPONDED AS INSTRUCTED
PER REFTELS AND ASSURED THE FORNMIN THAT HIS CONCERNS
WOULD NOT ONLY BE FORWARDED BUT WOULD CERTAINLY BE FULLY
WEIGHED BY THOSE IN THE ADMINISTRATION CHARGED WITH THE
FINAL REVIEW AND DECISION. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER TALBOYS REQUESTED THAT I CALL ON HIM
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PAGE 02 WELLIN 03520 01 OF 02 110536Z

AUGUST 10 TO DISCUSS THE ILO. TOGETHER WITH MY LABOR
ATTACHE AND MFA'S UN DIVISION HEAD, FREEMANBRENE, WE MET
IN HIS OFFICE AT NOON. TALBOYS SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD
THE "FRUSTRATION" WHICH HAS DRIVEN THE USG TO THE DECISION
BUT THAT ON SEVERAL POINTS HE WANTED TO EXPRESS HIS OWN
DEEP CONCERN FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE U.S. ACTUALLY
MIGHT WITHDRAW. APOLOGIZING FOR THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE

USG HAS ALREADY HEARD THE SAME OR SIMILAR PLEAS FROM OTHER
QUARTERS, TALBOYS SAID THE GNZ WAS PRIMARILY CONCERNED FOR
THE IMPACT A U.S. WITHDRAWAL WOULD HAVE ON THE UN AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. HE SAID IT WAS A VERY
SERIOUS DECISION, "MUCH MORE THAN ONE MADE BY JUST ONE
STATE." A U.S. WITHDRAWAL, HE SAID, "TAKES THE PILLARS
AWAY" FROM THE ILO. THE DEMOCRATIC INDUSTRIALIZED
COUNTRIES WILL BE SEEN AS "HANDING THE STORE OVER" AND
ANY CHANCE OF EVER ACHIEVING REFORM IN THE ILO WILL BE
"ALMOST SHATTERED." AT THE VERY LEAST, HE CONTINUED,
AS FRUSTRATING AS STAYING IN MIGHT BE, GETTING OUT COULD
ACHIEVE NOTHING. IT WOULD, HOWEVER, MAKE IT MUCH EASIER--
MORE ACCEPTABLE--FOR THE U.S. OR OTHER NATIONS TO PULL OUT
OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHERE THE TRENDS WERE
NOT TO THEIR LIKING.

3. AS ANOTHER ARGUMENT AGAINST WITHDRAWAL, TALBOYS NOTED
PRESIDENT CARTER'S DEDICATION TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND SAID ONE
OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ILO IS THE PRESERVATION AND
STRENGTHENING OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR WORKERS. HE ALSO
MENTIONED THE ISSUE OF VOTING RIGHTS ON THE GOVERNING BODY
AND SAID THE USG SHOULD BE PREPARED TO SHOW GREATER
FLEXIBILITY ON THE QUESTION.

4. USING THE GUIDANCE PROVIDED IN REFTELS, I: (A)
EXPRESSED THE APPRECIATION OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE
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PAGE 03 WELLIN 03520 01 OF 02 110536Z

SUPPORT OUR DELEGATION HAD RECEIVED FROM THE NEW ZEALAND
GOVERNMENT DELEGATES, AND INDEED FROM THE ENTIRE NEW
ZEALAND DELEGATION AT THE JUNE ILO CONFERENCE, AND (B)
ADVISED HIM THAT WHILE WITHDRAWAL DID LOOM AS A VERY REAL
POSSIBILITY, I WAS SURE EVERY ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE
CAREFULLY WEIGHED AND THE FINAL DECISION NOT MADE LIGHTLY.
LABOR ATTACHE AND I REVIEWED SEVERAL OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS
AND DISAPPOINTMENTS OF OUR EFFORTS SINCE NOVEMBER 1975
AND EMPHASIZED THAT THE U.S. HAD NOT GONE TO THE JUNE
CONFERENCE WITH ANY BOTTOM LINE OR ULTIMATUM, BUT THAT WE
DID EXPECT THAT SIGNS OF CONTINUED PROGRESS TOWARD
EVENTUAL ILO REFORM BE SHOWN. LABOR ATTACHE NOTED THAT
THE VOTING COHESION OF THE IMEC COUNTRIES HAD BEEN VERY
HEARTENING AND WAS CLEARLY A HOPEFUL SIGN. BUT THE U.S.
WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT MOST OF THE IMEC COUNTRY
DELEGATIONS HAD NOT ACTIVELY LOBBIED AND ASSISTED THE U.S.
ON THE KEY ISSUES. HE SAID THE LARGEST DISAPPOINTMENT,
HOWEVER, WAS THE RELUCTANCE OR INABILITY OF MOST OF THE
THIRD WORLD DELEGATIONS TO STAND APART FROM THE
COMMUNISTS AND ARABS ON THE KEY ISSUE VOTES. THIS WAS
DESPITE PRIOR ASSURANCES FROM MANY THIRD WORLD QUARTERS
THAT THEY WOULD WORK WITH THE U.S. TO ACHIEVE SATISFYING

PROGRESS TOWARD ILO REFORM

5. IN CONCLUSION, I ASSURED TALBOYS OF OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE CONCERNS HE HAD EXPRESSED AND SAID WE WOULD FORWARD THEM IMMEDIATELY TO THE DEPARTMENT. THE ARGUMENTS HE HAD MADE AGAINST WITHDRAWAL, AND SIMILAR ONES POSED BY SOME OF OUR OTHER FRIENDS WOULD CERTAINLY BE CAREFULLY JUDGED BY THE CABINET-LEVEL COMMITTEE AND OTHERS CHARGED WITH THE FINAL DECISION I SAID. TALBOYS RESPONDED THAT PERHAPS THE "VERY BIG PROBLEMS PRESENTED

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 03520 02 OF 02 110547Z

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3818

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 WELLINGTON 03520

BY THE POSSIBILITY OF DIVORCE" WILL LOOM LARGE ENOUGH TO
"CONVINCE THE PARTNERS THEY SHOULD STAY TOGETHER."
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Message Attributes

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